Welcome to Tai Chi Game
version 1.0

Contents
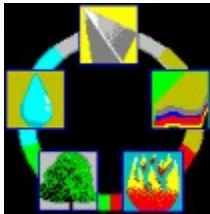
What is " Tai Chi Game" ?

In ancient China, some philosophers believed that everything that existed in the universe
could be classified into FIVE CATEGORIES. These philosophers used the FIVE CATEGORIES
combined with Tai Chi   to build a theory of the universe.   It's hard to translate the FIVE
CATEGORIES into English without losing their real meanings, however, we try to give an
explanation here:

First category :   metal, or things made of metal
Second category: water, or anything in a liquid phase
Third category: plants, things made of wood or related to plants.
Fourth category: fire, or things with heat
Fifth category :   ground, land, soil, dust, ash etc.

There are interesting relations between these categories.   For each category, there exist
four
different interactions between it and the other four categories. These four interactions are
"GENERATE", " BE GENERATED BY ", " DESTROY, and "BE DESTROYED BY". As illustrated
in the picture

The top icon represents the first category. In counterclockwise order, the other icons
represent the second, third, fourth, and fifth category respectively.   Each category
"GENERATES"
its counterclockwise neighbor , and "IS GENERATED BY" its clockwise neighbor.   In a similar
way,
each category can "DESTROY" its second   neighbor   in the counterclockwise order, and "IS
DESTROYED BY" its second   neighbor in the clockwise order.   The wisdom of those ancient
philosophers is easily appreciated by using some common sense. For example, if you burn
wood,
there comes fire, and after the burning, you see ashes. This explains why the third
category(plants)
generates the fourth one(fire), and why the fourth category generates the fifth
category(ash).
Furthermore, these ancient Chinese philosophers believed that these FIVE CATEGORIES have
to
be kept balance.   If they lose balance, there comes the disaster.

Many people recognize the symbol of Tai Chi as shown here,

but most people may wonder what it represents?   To answer this question, let's first come
back to the word " Tai Chi".   The English word "Tai Chi"   actually only resembles the sound
of two
Chinese characters.   If we translate its meaning in English, it may be expressed as " The
Final

Limit".   The ancient Chinese philosophers believed that while the universe is created from emptiness. In the creation of the universe,   the first stage is the appearance of Tai Chi which represents a chaotic state composed of the POSITIVE elements and the NEGATIVE elements. Everything in the universe originated from Tai Chi   as a combination of   the POSITIVE elements
and the NEGATIVE elements in a certain form.

As stated in its name, "Tai Chi Game" is a game based on the philosophy of Tai Chi and the FIVE
CATEGORIES.   The game rules will be stated in the section " How to play Tai Chi Game".

How to install "Tai Chi Game" ?

First , please check that you have all the files listed below

TAICHI.EXE
TAICHI.REC
TAICHI.WRI
TAICHI.HLP
REGISTER.TXT

Second, please create a directory(you can call it any name you like) and copy all the above

files into that directory.

Third, under FILE MANAGER, please double click on TAICHI.EXE and have fun!

How to use "Tai Chi Game" or How to play "Tai Chi Game" ?

Basically, after the game starts, an icon representing a category(called category icon hereafter) will show up on the top of the game frame and move towards the bottom. The motion of
the category icon will be stopped if it hits another category icon or the bottom of the game frame.
Before the category is stopped, you can use six control keys to control the category icon. These
control keys are used to

1. make the category icon move right (default key : l).
2. make the category icon move left (default key: j).
3. make the category icon switch to its neighbor category counterclockwise (default key: i).
4. make the category icon switch to its neighbor category clockwise (default key: k).
5. make the category icon become Tai Chi. (default key: Enter)
6. make the category icon drop down right away. (default key: Space)

Note, if the falling icon is blinking, it can not be changed into any other icons.

There are 7 kinds of icons in this game. Besides the icons for the FIVE CATEGORIES, there are
icons for the EMPTINESS and Tai Chi.   The EMPTINESS icon looks like

At the beginning of each level, there are some category icons along with several EMPTINESS icons on the bottom of the game frame. The mission for the player is to clear up all the EMPTINESS icons before the time is up and then advance to another level.   There are two ways to
clear an icon. First, the player can make a consecutive line of at least 3   icons of the same kind.
This consecutive line can be either horizontal, vertical, or diagonal.   Second, the player can make
the falling icon become Tai Chi for 3 seconds.   Every icon hit by Tai Chi will be cleared up. There is
a special way to clear the EMPTINESS icon.   If the 4 nearest-neighbor icons surrounding a EMPTINESS icon are of the same category,   the surrounded EMPTINESS icon will change into that category icon.   At the beginning of the game, the player has 3 Tai Chi. After the player changes a falling icon into a Tai Chi icon, the number of Tai Chi decreases by 1.   If there are no
Tai Chi left, the player can no longer change the falling icon into a Tai Chi icon.   There is only one
way to create a Tai Chi.   The player has to arrange 5 different category icons in a horizontal consecutive line with the cyclic order as shown in FIVE CATEGORIES picture above.   Once this
condition is satisfied, these 5 category icons will turn into a Tai Chi icon.   The player can stock up
to 10 Tai Chi icons.   On the screen, the player can also see a Tai Chi spinning in a circle. The
FIVE CATEGORIES icons are distributed on the circle and form a pentagon.   If the player clears
up one category icon, this spinning Tai Chi will move one step towards the category icon on the

circle.   Keep in mind that the universe is stable only when the FIVE CATEGORIES are
balanced.
Once the Tai Chi touches the edge of the circle, the game is over.

If the player turns on the "Advanced mode " ,   the falling icon will interact with the icon it
hits.   The
interaction rules are listed below

1. If the "hit" icon GENERATEs the falling icon, the falling icon changes into the "hit" icon.
2. If the "hit" icon is GENERATED BY the falling icon, the "hit" icon changes into the falling
icon.
3. If the "hit" icon DESTROYs the falling icon, the falling icon changes into the category icon
it
    GENERATEs.
4. If the "hit" icon is DESTROYED BY the falling icon, the "hit" icon changes into the category
icon
    it GENERATEs.

Before you use the MOUSE to click on the PLAY button.   You can make several choices from
the
MENU BAR. These choices are:

SPEED The SPEED option controls the time for the next icon to appear.

START LEVEL Check your desired start level.

OPTION   You can check the "Advanced mode" to turn on the interactions between
different

              categories.   If you check "Define control keys", you can choose your favorite
keys

              to control the category icon.

COLOR   If your graphics display card can support 256 colors, please choose 256 colors

              mode.

SOUND   In this version, we don't offer   support for multimedia devices.   You
can only

              turn the sound "ON" or "OFF".

CONTEST

A contest makes a game more interesting. SUNMOON USA proposes a contest of Tai Chi Game.
The winner of this contest may win up to US$300.00   To make the contest fair to every player, we
have to minimize the machine dependence of Tai Chi Game. Although Tai Chi Game is
independent of   the CPU speed, it does depends on the graphics hardware speed.   We're still
working on this problem. Once this problem is solved, we will release version 1.1 and the details of
the contest.

Can I redistribute Tai Chi Game ?

You are very welcome to redistribute Tai Chi Game if all the files listed in "How to install...."
are included without any modification.   Of course, you should not, either directly or indirectly,
distribute the PASSWORD or the   REGISTRATION NUMBER in any way.   SUNMOON USA is very serious about fighting software piracy.

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How to register ?

If you have a printer, please print out REGISTER.TXT and complete all the necessary information.
If you don't have a printer, please write down the information listed below on a piece of paper as the registration form. You can find the "Distributor Number" under the "Help menu" in the Tai Chi Game.

Please make money order or check payable to **SUNMOON USA**, sent along with your registration form to :

SUNMOON USA
P.O. BOX 167
Drexel Hill, PA19026

* Outside the United States, please send US dollars or equivalent currency in cash.

REGISTRATION FORM   for   *Tai Chi Game*

Distributor Number: _____

Last Name: _____

First Name:_____

Origination(School,Company,etc):_____

Address :_____

        _____

        _____

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